

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 098768
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 OES-02 SNM-02 /041 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RASMITH:MGH
APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
-----030534Z 098327 /15

R 021947Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098768

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

1. GENERAL KRIANGSAK MET WITH MR. HOLBROOKE AND MR. OAKLEY
FOR HALF AN HOUR APRIL 29.

2. MR. HOLBROOKE BEGAN THE CONVERSATION BY APOLOGIZING
FOR NOT HAVING VISITED THAILAND DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO
SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT EXPLAINED THAT AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE
HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE DELAY HIS TRIP UNTIL AFTER THE
NARCOTICS CONFERENCE AND THE VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF WERE
COMPLETED. MR. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT BOTH HE AND MR.
OAKLEY WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING BANGKOK IN THE
NEAR FUTURE.

3. KRIANGSAK CONFIRMED MR. OAKLEY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT
THE GENERAL HAD RECEIVED GOOD NEWS DURING HIS MEDICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 098768

CHECKUP AT WALTER REED. (FYI: THERE IS NO RECURRENCE
OF CANCER AND A LOW-BLOOD PRESSURE CONDITION CAN BE
REMEDIED.)

4. MR. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED GENERAL
KRIANGSAK'S CAREER AND APPRECIATED THE GENERAL'S TRADI-
TIONAL SUPPORT FOR STRONG U.S.-THAI RELATIONS. THE

GENERAL NOTED THAT DURING THE SENI AND KHUKRIT GOVERNMENTS HE HAD BEEN EMBARRASSED BY THE TREATMENT THE U.S. HAD RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF THAI STUDENTS AND OTHERS. THERE WAS, HE SAID, TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY WHICH PLAYED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF COMMUNIST-INSPIRED ELEMENTS WITHIN THAILAND.

5. MR. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT HE TOO WAS SORRY FOR THE WAY U.S.-THAI RELATIONS HAD DEVELOPED DURING THE LAST YEARS OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE INDOCHINA WAR AND WATERGATE HAD MADE IT DIFFICULT TO GAIN U.S. PUBLIC SUPPORT AND MANY POLICIES HAD NOT BEEN CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT. IT WAS BAD LUCK THAT, SIMULTANEOUS WITH OUR OWN GOVERNMENTAL DISTRESS, THE GOVERNMENT IN THAILAND EXPERIENCED ITS OWN PERIOD OF UNREST. MR. HOLBROOKE THEN NOTED THAT, FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THE WAR IN INDOCHINA WAS ANCIENT HISTORY AND THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. SIMILARLY, A NEW THAI GOVERNMENT HAD COME INTO BEING WHICH, WHILE NOT WITHOUT ITS OWN DIFFICULTIES, WOULD, WE HOPED, BE PREPARED TO WORK WITH US ON THE LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-THAI RELATIONS AND FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION. SUCH A REGIONAL AND LONG-TERM APPROACH TO POLICY COULD INCLUDE SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN, MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN DIFFERENT FORMS, ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS, THE THAI-LAO BORDER SITUATION, THE COMMUNIST THREAT IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA, U.S.-SRV RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 098768

6. GENERAL KRIANGSAK ENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED, NOTING THAT IT WAS TIME FOR A NEW CHAPTER IN U.S.-THAI RELATIONS AND THAT WITH THAILAND'S STRATEGIC LOCATION AND DESIRE TO IMPROVE ITS DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT COULD SERVE BOTH U.S. AND THAI INTERESTS. THE GENERAL INDICATED THAT ALL THE ASEAN COUNTRIES LOOKED UPON THAILAND AS A WEATHERVANE FOR THEIR OWN FUTURE. "WE ARE ESSENTIAL TO ASEAN, AND ASEAN LOOKS TO THE U.S. TO ENSURE STABILITY IN THE REGION." THE GENERAL THEN ASKED HOW THE U.S. VIEWED THAILAND.

7. MR. HOLBROOKE EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO REMAIN AN ASIAN AND PACIFIC POWER AND THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK WITH THE COUNTRIES OF ASEAN EITHER AS A GROUP OR INDIVIDUALLY. THE SEVENTH FLEET WILL CONTINUE TO BE ESSENTIAL TO OUR POLICY IN ASIA AND WILL BE MAINTAINED, HE SAID.

8. MR. HOLBROOKE THEN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN

RIGHTS BY NOTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEEP COMMITMENT TO THIS ISSUE AND ADDED THAT THE REASON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE LOST THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION WAS BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE TO TAKE HUMAN RIGHTS INTO CONSIDERATION. GENERAL KRIANGSAK ASKED IF THAILAND WAS ONE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERNS. MR. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT WAS PRIMARILY DIRECTED TOWARDS THE SOVIETS BUT THAT IT ALSO INVOLVED SOME OF OUR TREATY PARTNERS AND FRIENDS.

9. GENERAL KRIANGSAK THEN PRODUCED A RECENT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, AS WELL AS SEVERAL WASHINGTON POST STORIES WHICH HE FELT WERE INJURIOUS TO THAILAND. MR. HOLBROOKE EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT OCCASIONAL UNCOMPLIMENTARY PRESS REPORTS. MR. HOLBROOKE URGED THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT NOT INTERFERE WITH AMERICAN REPORTERS, AS ANY IN-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 098768

FRINGEMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE U.S. PRESS WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE AND PROFOUND IMPACT ON THAILAND'S IMAGE IN AMERICA.

10. MR. HOLBROOKE CONCLUDED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT IF SOMEONE WERE TO ASK HIM WHAT MOST PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VIEWED AS THE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF U.S.-THAI RELATIONS, HE WOULD HAVE TO SAY IT WAS NARCOTICS. MR. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT WHENEVER HE IS ASKED "ARE THE THAI DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO END THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS?", HE RESPONDED THAT HE IS SUSPENDING JUDGMENT UNTIL HE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO VISIT BANGKOK HIMSELF, ALTHOUGH HE WAS QUITE ENCOURAGED BY THE INCREASE IN NARCOTICS SEIZURES AT DON MAUNG AIRPORT. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE098768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RASMITH:MGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770154-0026
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705103/aaaadlgk.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3331e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2328674
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, TH, US, (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD), (KRIANGSAK)
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3331e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009